

URBAN PROGRAM'S DONOR COLLABORATION AND U.S. PARTNERS FOR GLOBAL URBAN REVITALIZATION

Development Initiatives With Other International Donors

The Office of the Environment and Urban Programs (G/ENV/UP) and its Regional Urban Development Offices (RUDOs) have played a leading role in the development and dissemination of USAID's housing and municipal finance experiences, and lessons learned across countries in the developing world. It works closely with multilateral donors and regional finance organizations to promote self-sustaining approaches to better manage the population explosion in cities and towns in the developing world. Highlights of this work in 2000-2001 include the following:

- The Cities Alliance - G/ENV/UP has played a leading role in partnering with a coalition of international donors to improve the efficiency and impact of urban development cooperation among multi-lateral and bi-lateral donors. The Alliance was launched in May, 1999 by the World Bank and the UNCHS, and is focused on two key areas: (1) to scale-up citywide and on a national basis slum-upgrading programs; and (2) to support consensus-building processes among stakeholders and city officials that lead to preparation of city development strategies and action plans linked to financial resources. This mechanism affords G/ENV/UP opportunities to merge its policy and program experience, field presence of its RUDOs, and policy agendas/demonstration programs with multi-lateral and bilateral partners to scale-up slum improvement programs to address the urban challenges of the 21st Century.
- The RUDO/LAC office located in Guatemala has been focused promoting strengthened municipal finance as a hemisphere wide agenda linked to good governance, economic growth, and improved delivery of urban services to the poor. RUDO/LAC, along with its partners in the LAC Regional Donor Forum, have established a Municipal Finance Working Group to coordinate donor municipal finance strengthening activities in the region. Its work dovetail with efforts to promote reform in municipal finance as an issue to be highlighted at the Summit of the Americas meeting in April 2001. RUDO has assisted in developing points on municipal finance for the U.S. Summit agenda, as well as assuring the inclusion of municipal finance reform as a key local government issue in a "Declaration of Local Governments in Support of the Summit of the Americas," signed by over 400 LAC mayors.
- The RUDO/Warsaw office in Poland and USAID's ENI/UDH (Urban Development and Housing Office) have joined forces in bringing together the Council of Europe, Open Societies Institute (OSI), World Bank, and the UK Know-How Fund to organize and fund a regional networking initiative called LOGIN for local governments and NGOs throughout Central and Eastern Europe. This is a significant multi-language initiative that promises to enhance communications and opportunities for sharing experiences, best practices, laws and regulatory frameworks among municipal government practitioners, lawmakers, researchers, and others involved in Eastern and Central Europe governance matters.
- RUDO/Sub-Saharan Africa office and the World Bank (financed by the Danish Trust Fund) jointly embarked on an ambitious regional effort to promote decentralization in sub-Saharan Africa. As a first step in this effort, the partners conducted six studies of fiscal decentralization and sub-national finance, of which the sub-Saharan Africa RUDO financed three—in Ghana, Zimbabwe, and Zambia. In addition, two new Resource Cities partnerships between U.S. and African cities were established in FY 2000 (for a total of 7). This program, in tandem with national fiscal decentralization studies with the National Association of Local Authorities of Denmark (NALAD), the World Bank and strategic planning exercises with elected council and

city officials, have enabled officials to develop strategic plans which lay out municipal investment priorities, particularly in the area of service delivery.

Major U.S. Partnerships

In support of policy initiatives, project design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation functions, the Office of Environment and Urban Programs counts on the support of a cadre of international and U.S. consultants to satisfy the particular requirements of its USAID missions and host country partners. In FY 2000 - 2001 the Office has developed and used the following principal contracting mechanisms to serve its clients needs:

- Sustainable Urban Management (SUM) IQC - During its second year of operations in FY 2000, this contract mechanism facilitated UP's technical outreach to 15 different countries/USAID missions to support a diverse range of development needs. A total of 40 new task orders were awarded as compared to 16 the previous year and the value of these services increased from \$4.3 million (FY1999) to \$19.3 in obligations (buy-ins). Prime contractors include Abt Associates, Community Consulting International (CCI), International City/County Management Association (ICMA), Planning and Development Collaborative, Inc. (PADCO), Research Triangle Institute (RTI), and Urban Institute (UI).
- Resource Cities Partnerships - In its fourth year of operation this cooperative agreement mechanism with the International City Management Association has initiated nearly 40 partnerships between U.S. cities and their international counterparts to address a host of development problems. These partnerships provide an opportunity to share field tested approaches to problems of solid waste management, economic development, water supply and wastewater treatment, community participation, etc. FY 2000, a total of ten new partnerships in eight countries were established and are in various stages of implementation. These latest partnerships have occurred largely in Eastern Europe and Asia, illustrating the emerging demands of interested Missions across the world.
- PLAN International Partnerships - This is an exciting and promising partnership in its 4th year of development that is on the cutting edge of introducing the concepts and practices of sustainable micro-finance for shelter into a major international child sponsorship development program. This partnership is designed to assist PLAN International in incorporating the use of credit as a development tool, which offers PLAN and its developing country collaborators the opportunity to scale-up its operations to reach larger numbers of children and urban marginal families. In FY 2000 - 2001, it has successfully demonstrated significant progress in institution building of its country partner organizations in 3 of its 5 pilot programs - Bolivia, Guatemala, and El Salvador - and provided home improvement loans to approximately 1,200 families.